



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner



Division of Fire Safety
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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State Fire Marshal Warns of Building Collapse Danger

CONCORD, NH - State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan announced today that recent heavy snow has caused numerous roofs to collapse throughout the state. With rain in the forecast, there is an even greater urgency to clear roofs of snow and ice that has accumulated. A roof may collapse with little or no warning, and one common misconception is that only flat roofs are susceptible to collapse.

Also, recent fire investigations have determined that gas service to some buildings have been damaged due to heavy snow loads and snow sliding off of roofs onto gas meters and components. The State Fire Marshal urges all citizens to do the following:

- Clear roofs of excessive snow and ice buildup, being careful not to damage gas service to the building.
- Keep all chimneys and vents clear to prevent carbon monoxide from backing up into the building. Some vents, such as pellet stove vents, may exit the building through a wall and are susceptible to being blocked by excessive snow buildup on the outside of the building.
- Keep all exits clear of snow, so that occupants can escape quickly if a fire, or other emergency, should occur. Keep in mind that windows should be cleared to allow a secondary means of escape in case the primary means of escape is blocked by fire. Keeping exits clear also allows emergency workers to access your building.

Specific fire and building safety questions can be answered by local fire and building officials or by contacting the State Fire Marshal's Office at 271-3294. For information on roof snow load requirements in your community, view the report at the following website link: <http://www.senh.org/committee%20reports/tr02-6.pdf>

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